

IUE-CWA Local 201 News

Celebrating 92 Years
as a Chartered Local
1933 – 2025

Local 201 is an amalgamated local representing approximately 1,600 members employed by GE River Works (Lynn), Ametek Aerospace (Wilmington), LWWTP (Lynn), Avis-Budget Group (East Boston), Avis (Boston/Cambridge), FleetLogix (East Boston), the Saugus Public Library (Saugus), the NSLC (Lynn) and thousands of lifetime Retiree members across the country. www.local201.org

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Practice Picket at the Plant Gates: GE Workers are United for a Fair Contract

By Adam Kaszynski, Local 201 President

On International Worker's Day IUE-CWA GE workers held a practice picket outside the plant gates and were joined by delegations of GE workers from Strothers KS, Madisonville KY, and Schenectady NY. Union leaders from all the IUE GE shops addressed the crowded picket. A member from IUE-CWA 761 from GE Appliance Park (no longer under the same IUE/GE contract) spoke about solidarity getting their local through the hardest of times. We were joined by the Local 201 Retiree Council, Mayor Jared Nicholson, MA AFL-CIO President Chrissy Lynch, Lynn City Councilor Fred Hogan, among others. Our message was clear, we know what we want, we are unified, and we are willing to fight to get it. Contract is around the corner – we are ready.

GE Union Leaders Speak to 201 Members on May 1

Tammy Hoke, President, IUE-CWA Local 301

"Today, I stand before you not just as a Union President, but as a fellow worker; someone who knows what it feels like to put in long hours, to give your all on the job, and still wonder how you're going to make ends meet.

While we're out here breaking our backs, holding this company together, the corporate elite are making billions...BILLIONS...off our labor. They sit in glass towers and collect bonuses, while we juggle bills, stretch paychecks, and worry about our future. It's not just unfair, it's exploitation...

Let me be clear; we're not asking for a handout. We're demanding what we've earned: fair wages, real benefits, and the dignity of retiring after a lifetime of work without worrying if we can afford groceries or medication.

The strength of any GE is not in its profits; it's in its people. And we, the workers, are that strength. It's time they remembered that. "

Kevin Christian President IUE-CWA Local 701

"We build the components and the engines that lift this nation. We fuel the future with sweat, skill, and sacrifice. Yet, while corporate profits soar into the stratosphere, many of us are grounded by crushing health care costs, slashed benefits, and broken promises.

Let me ask you—when did it become acceptable for a company that earns billions, off our backs, to treat health care like a privilege instead of a right? When did our families' well-being become negotiable?

We are done waiting. We are done settling. We are not asking—we are demanding for what we've earned: Affordable, comprehensive health care. Strong benefits for every worker, not just the boardroom elite. Fair treatment and fair wages. This is not just a contract fight. This is a moral fight. A fight about dignity. A fight about justice. It's a fight about the future of the American worker.

GE Aerospace listen to my words:

You can't build the future without respecting the hands that make it possible."

Marcus Vickman, IUE-CWA Local 1004

"I am an Air Force Veteran and proud member of Local 1004, Strother field, KS.

I take much pride in knowing that we build and maintain engines for our warfighters. Unfortunately, GE is trying to change that with outsourcing..... offshoring..... and hiring nonunion shops. Outsourcing work that our shops have the ability to perform to vendors. Offshoring to countries such as Romania, India, Turkey, Korea, and Brazil. Giving nonunion shops our work and capitalizing on their lack of collective bargaining and equitable treatment. Our four

continued on page 12

2025 Picket Schedule for GE River Works

SHIFT	BUILDING	TIME	GATE
THIRD	ALL	Midnight - 6 am	Fairchild
SECOND	ALL	6 pm - Midnight	Fairchild
DAY SHIFT	LAT&O:29,81	6 am - 10 am	Fairchild
	LCM, 40	10 am - 2 pm	Fairchild
	LCM Logistics:	2 pm - 6 pm	Fairchild
	66, 63, 90		
	TOOL & DIE:	6 am - 10 am	Bennett
	64 Cells, 32		
	Punch Press		
	LPS: 64, 99, 89, 81	10 am - 2 pm	Bennett
	74	2 pm - 6 pm	Bennett

Maintenance Pickets with Respective Building

CWA

**CWA MEMBERS' RELIEF FUND
STRIKER CERTIFICATION FORM**

Local: _____

Bargaining Unit: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____

PHONE (Home): _____

(Cell): _____

E-Mail: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

WORKSITE: _____

STEWARD'S NAME: _____

I certify that I am eligible to receive strike benefits under the rules of the Members' Relief Fund. I understand that if I am found ineligible under the rules, I will return any payments I am not entitled to.

Eligibility Verified _____

Striker's Signature _____

Date _____

Original: CWA District Fund Agent
Copy: Local Union

DFR-1
(04/16)

Next Local 201 Membership Meeting May 27, 2025 - See page 4

- * Workers' Compensation
- * Social Security Disability
- * Accidents

Law Offices of James J. Carrigan

James J. Carrigan

(Former member Local 201
and Lynn Teachers Union)

Anne Gugino Carrigan

(Former member AFSCME)

225 Boston Street, Suite 306
Lynn, MA 01902

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Fax (781) 592-7555



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427 Lynnway
Lynn, MA 01905
(781) 599-2773

FREE PARKING • EVENING AND SATURDA HOURS

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SYMPATHY

The Sympathy of IUE-CWA Local 201 Officers, Executive Board, Retirees and Staff is extended to the family and friends of GE Retiree Ronald Agrella on his recent death. Ron worked in Assembly.

Service Directory

As a service to our members and retirees, Local 201 offers classified ads at minimal rates. We encourage members to consider their brothers and sisters when hiring for odd jobs. These ads do not imply any endorsement or guarantee of workmanship by Local 201.

Fix-A-Brick

Foundations - Stairs - Chimneys - Walkways - Repairs
Call 978-239-9801 Ted Crowley

Clean Outs/Estate Sales/Junk Removal

We remove trash for a fee.
Also will consult to liquidate your estate.
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Mark & Robin's Comics



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**Complimentary Exam and Evaluation for GE, AMETEK,
Veolia at Lynn Wastewater Treatment Plant, and/or Local 201 IUE Members**



Print your ad on this form.

Mail to: Service Directory, IUE-CWA Local 201,
112 Exchange St., Lynn, MA 01901.

Enclose Payment:

For active members & retirees: \$5 per issue or \$50 per year

TITLE _____
25 _____
WORD _____
LIMIT _____
PHONE # _____

Your Name Amt. Enclosed

Your phone # Circle: active or retired Date mailed

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Union News

By FRED HOGAN

Chief Steward
Lynn Wastewater
Treatment Plant



Saugus Public Library

By JACKIE MILLER

Chief Steward Saugus Public Library

Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the month of May, I'm proud to announce that we have reached a **tentative agreement** with **Veolia North America**. This is a significant step forward for our union members at the Lynn Regional Wastewater Facility, whose contract officially expired on **April 30, 2025**.

A big thank you goes out to our **bargaining team** for their hard work and dedication throughout this process:

- **Stewards Chris Remillard and Cory Scott**
- **Business Agent Jeff Cruz**
- **IUE-CWA Staff Rep. Byron Waterman**

Your commitment to our membership and to securing a fair deal has not gone unnoticed.

We are currently finalizing a few points of contract language with the Company. Once those are resolved, we will schedule a **ratification meeting** where members will have the opportunity to **review and vote** on the new contract.

Stay tuned—**full details of the agreement will be shared in my next article** once the contract is officially ratified.

Congratulations to our Month of May Union Pride Award Winners!

- **\$50 Gift Certificate to Alfredo's Italian Kitchen:** Tyllor McDonald
- **Union T-Shirt Winner:** John Alfalma

Congratulations to Our Licensed Operators!

Please join me in congratulating the following members of our Operations & Maintenance Unit for their achievements:

- **Tyllor McDonald** – Passed the Massachusetts Grade 2 Wastewater Exam
- **Chris Roork** – Passed the Grade 2 Exam
- **Bobby Evangelista** – Passed the Grade 2 Exam
- **Kian Breslin** – Passed the Grade 6 Exam

All four are now officially **licensed wastewater operators**. Their dedication to studying and improving their skills sets a great example for the rest of the crew.

We're proud to see so many members continuing to pursue their wastewater certifications. This not only strengthens our union's position—it strengthens our plant and our community.

In Solidarity, Fred Hogan

Even Miss Manners is Promoting Unions

Several days ago, Miss Manners, aka Judith Martin and her cowriters, answered a question from a retail store employee asking Miss Manners how to get customers to behave better or to get management to change its policy about the number of items customers were allowed to bring into a dressing room at one time. As the beleaguered minimum wage earner wrote, "*Rein in the free-for-all try-ons. You aren't creating jobs, just making the work harder to keep up with — and making few purchases to show for it.*"

While the answer Miss Manners gave to her Gentle Reader was not itself exactly cloaked in the union banner, it does describe why it is essential have a union in your workplace. The union could approach management about the policy or use it in negotiations in a new contract. A work slowdown would have the dressing rooms constantly in a shambles and decrease the stores' sales. One employee asking for a change is going to be ignored. Hundreds of employees demanding a change will be heard. There is another interesting point hidden in plain sight, so keep reading beyond Miss Manner's response.

"Carrying out a policy that makes your workday harder is one of the joys of working for others — particularly

when the policy is either so poorly thought out or so poorly implemented that it cannot achieve its objectives. But unilaterally implementing one's own policy will result in looking for a new job. And so the options are: carrying out the objectionable policy, convincing the boss to see the error of their ways, or finding a way to implement the boss's policy that does work.

The latter may be the most challenging, but will open up possibilities for an even better fourth option: finding a more agreeable job, either by expanding your experience or by proving your worth in your current position."

Headlines are written not by advice columnists or journalists but by copy editors, the grunts in the trenches making sure the spelling, grammar and facts are (hopefully) correct in the print and online content. Somewhere out there a white collar professional, and likely a member of the NewsGuild-CWA, slipped in a pro-union message to retail workers and the vast readership of Miss Manners' column.

As a member of the media, that copy editor knows we are living through tumultuous times. As a union member, the copy editor knows the only way to effect change—big or small—is by banding together. As the headline at-tests, this is what unions are for.

SYMPATHY

The Sympathy of IUE-CWA Local 201 Officers, Executive Board, Retirees and Staff is extended to the family and friends of GE Retiree John Trocki on his recent death. John worked as an AAEM.

SYMPATHY

The Sympathy of IUE-CWA Local 201 Officers, Executive Board, Retirees and Staff is extended to the family and friends of GE Retiree Ronald Leawood on his recent death. Ron worked as an electrician.

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GE Stewards Council

June 10, 2025

**Building 40 Break Room
8am-9am and 4pm-5pm**

Please let your boss know you'll be on union business for the hour. This meeting is open to all Stewards at GE.



Organizing Report

By NICK BECKER
Local 201 Organizer

FleetLogix Workers Continue to Fight for a Fair First Contract

Local 201 FleetLogix Members at the Avis-Budget HQ site in East Boston continue their fight for a fair first contract. On April 16, FleetLogix/Local 201 Bargaining Committee were ready to meet with the Company after waiting two months since the last bargaining session. However, the Company cancelled last-minute. In the face of this disrespect, the Bargaining Committee and the FleetLogix 201 membership quickly acted. First, the Committee asked Local 201 President Adam Kaszynski to demand FleetLogix's lawyer provide Company responses to previously-negotiated contract language and an improved wage offer. Next, they strategized an action that would pressure the Company on the shop-floor for these demands as well as demonstrate unwavering member unity in the face of the Company's delay tactics.

The result was a "March on the Boss" the very next day. After informing each member in their van crews of the Company's actions at the start of shift, the Bargaining Committee recruited them to sign onto a petition demanding Corporate leadership get back to the table. When vans returned to Avis HQ to clock out for lunch,

unified crews marched into FleetLogix's dispatch office to present site management with the petition and had rank and file member speakers read the full statement in English and Spanish. By the time the last crew read their statement, the managers were mouthing the words to it; they knew it so well!

The quick response and overwhelming member support in this action caught the Company off-guard, and they immediately scrambled to show they intended to bargain in good-faith. Since then, there has been some movement on both of our demands regarding contract language and wages, but a full tentative agreement has not yet been reached. Until then, FleetLogix members need to stand strong by continuing to wear their union gear proudly and engage every new hire about the on-going fight for better wages, holidays, vacation, and dignity on the job. If you have any questions, contact one of your Stewards, Khalil Saddiq and Carlos Nunez, or the member of the Bargaining Committee in your crew.

In solidarity,
Nick



FleetLogix Workers March on the Boss

OFFICIAL NOTICE

LOCAL 201 IUE-CWA (AFL-CIO)

COMBINED SHOP STEWARDS & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 27, 2025

IN PERSON AT THE
IUE CWA LOCAL 201
UNION HALL
112 EXCHANGE STREET
LYNN, MA 01901



OR VIA ZOOM

<https://shorturl.at/pLyRL>

FIRST SHIFT 3:30 P.M.
SECOND SHIFT 12:30 P.M.
THIRD SHIFT MAY ATTEND EITHER MEETING.

AGENDA:

- I. FEATURED PRESENTATIONS:
 1. 30+ YEAR PIN AWARDS
 2. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS
- II. GENERAL BUSINESS:
 1. MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 2. POLICY BOARD
 3. TREASURER'S MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
- III. GE REPORT
- IV. AVIS/BUDGET GROUP REPORT
- V. AMETEK REPORT
- VI. VEOLIA WATER REPORT
- VII. SAUGUS LIBRARIANS REPORT
- VIII. FLEETLOGIX REPORT
- IX. NEW BUSINESS

Signed,

ADAM KASZYNSKI, President
JEFFERSON CRUZ RUALES, Business Agent



Machinist Training Opportunity

The E-Team machinist training program is currently recruiting and accepting applications for its next class. We are looking for motivated people who want to change their lives by learning to work in a highly technical field that offers strong employment, good wages and benefits, and a career with opportunities for growth. Students are enrolled tuition free in our demanding 5.5-month training program. Classes are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights 6pm-9pm and Saturdays 7am-3pm. Applications may be submitted on our website: www.eteamhome.net

Facebook.com/ETeammachinisttraining
Call us at 617-699-1071

The E-Team is associated with the Essex County Community Organizations, IUE-CWA Local 201, and the Boston Tooling and Machinist Association.

OPEN
POSITIONS

Listed Below are Open Positions as of May 1, 2025

Lynn GE

You can apply for these jobs at GECareers.com

3 Bench • 19 AAEM • 5 Auto Lathe • 2 Boring Mill Verticle
1 Broach Verticle • 2 Milling Machine Electro Automatic • 1 HVAC
2 Repair Control • 2 Spot Welder • 2 Security Officer • 2 Electrician
3 Power Plant Operator License required • 1 Plumber • 2 CNC Co-Op



201 Retiree's Column

By ALEX BROWN

President of the 201 Retirees Council

Join the Local 201 Retirees at Metro Bowl in June: This is our last retiree event until September. Check out the flier on this page for the details. I know we have some good bowlers. And then some of us (like me) who are quite rusty but up for trying something new. Date is June 25, 3-5pm.

Retirees at the Local 201 Practice Picket May 1. I enjoyed seeing retirees I hadn't seen for a while and we got to support the GE Aerospace locals in their fight for a fair contract. Below is my speech at the practice picket.

"We Retirees are in the House!"

Our banner says: "We built it!" Because we did. The Company and the Union. Many of us put in over 30 and some over 40 years cutting parts, assembling, testing, keeping the machines running. We know what it's like to take on GE and their push to cut jobs and

benefits to profit as much as they can.

We're proud to be here to keep fighting for retirees and to support Local 201 and all the locals as you all continue to fight for fairness against corporate greed.

Our signs say: "GE Retirees Deserve Loyalty Not Betrayal" from the Company we built. GE wants retirees gone. We're not going. Instead, we're talking about what we need.

Retirees need a raise. We are on fixed incomes with mounting costs. We've had no raises for 10 years. Many of us try to survive on pensions as low as \$700/mo after 20-30 years' work. We don't get COLA's and inflation means our checks don't go as far.

Instead, GE slashes our benefits such as post 65 health care, GE basic life insurance for those retiring after 2019, pensions for those hired after 2012.

And GE Aerospace makes it impossible to

collect on those earned and promised benefits that some of us still have. We need access to customer service reps that know our contract and provide timely answers to our questions

Retirees need our benefits restored. Life insurance in retirement, pension for all, help on medical costs and protections for our pensions.

Retirees are here in support. We know without a fight union workers and retirees will have nothing. We stand with you."



Congratulations Sean Commerford on your Retirement



Retirees Present at May Day Practice Picket

IUE-CWA Local 201 RETIREES COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday May 28 at 11:00 AM

In Person at the Lynn Housing Authority Community Room
10 Church Street, Lynn and on Zoom

If you need help getting on Zoom, please contact us in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

(Limited Zoom Available)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86199516446>

Meeting ID: 861 9951 6446

Passcode: 153283

Call in: + 646 558 8656

**For more info call Alex Brown:
617-922-5573**

Alex Brown, President
Gregg Johnson Recording Secretary
Joe Mills Treasurer



Retirees Attend Lobby Day

LOCAL 201 RETIREE BOWLING NIGHT



\$10 PP

price includes bowling, shoes,
pizza, and soft drinks

RSVP BY 6/24



Call Alex @ 617-922-5573 or email Dave @ ddbjorkman@verizon.net
to sign up by June 24 or sign up at the next Retiree Meeting May 28

CASH BAR AVAILABLE! PIZZA AND SOFT DRINKS SERVED AT 5 PM

Contract Kick Off Rally April 17, 2025



201 Members Stand Out for National Day of Action



2025 IUE CWA Local 201 Scholarship Winners



\$2,000.00

Jeff Crosby Scholarship
Taylor Collins, Lynnfield HS



\$2,000.00

Charles E. Ruiter, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Orlando Quintana, Lynn English HS



\$2,000.00

James J. Donahue Memorial Scholarship
Limbert Thomas, Lynn English HS

\$2,000.00 "Big" Jim Logan Scholarship: Emma Isidro, Bishop Fenwick HS

May Day 2025





LCM Report

By BRIAN MERCHANT
LCM Executive Board

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I want to sincerely thank everyone for the warm welcome into my new role. I deeply appreciate your patience as I continue to learn the ropes. A special note of gratitude goes to Vice President Chris Moody for his invaluable support during this transition.

Over the past month, I've gained a newfound respect for the board members who served before me. This role demands a great deal of time, flexibility, and the ability to be in several places at once—something I'm still working on mastering! Despite the challenges, I'm genuinely enjoying the position and remain grateful for your continued patience as I navigate its many responsibilities.

One of the major issues that has surfaced is the new payroll system, which has proven to be frustrating for many. I estimate that about 70% of my time so far has been spent resolving payroll-related concerns. I strongly encourage everyone to review your pay slips carefully. If you notice anything unusual or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Interpreting these new pay slips might feel like a task for a Mensa member, but I'm here to help.

In closing, if you're facing any issues or concerns, know that my door is always open, and my phone is always on.

Slán go fóill,
Brian Merchant

URGENT URGENT URGENT Part IV

By Tom O'Shea former VP IUE CWA Local 201

I learned something new this past month by helping a member with his pension. This individual, like many of our GE Local 201 brothers and sisters, had been laid off to the street in the 1980's and was rehired in the early 2000's. The following information is very important.

This probably pertains to you if you have broken service for any significant length of time. 1 year to 20 years or more. Calculating the pension for members that have broken service has thrown Fidelity a curveball. If you go to NetBenefits on Fidelity and try to start the process to Collect your pension the website will likely come up as "unavailable". If this happens to you, you need to call Fidelity and start the process by talking to them 800-343-3548. Once you initiate the process they will start to do the calculation for your pension. This will take a minimum of 10-15 business days. Once they calculate your pension, they will send you paperwork by snail mail or let you know by email that you can proceed on the NetBenefits website. You can wait to hear from Fidelity, or you can check in with them weekly to see if you can proceed to Collect your pension through the website.

Going back to what I wrote in previous Urgent columns you need to give yourself plenty of time to put in to Collect your pension. 60-90 days is not un-

heard of.

Having dealt with Fidelity so far in 2025 I have a couple of short cuts to help you with Collecting your pension. I recommend trying to put in for your pension directly through the Fidelity website. If you must call Fidelity prepare a list of questions and answers before you call.

1. Tell Fidelity you want to collect your GE pension. Period. You do not want to deal with your RSP or anything else at this time.
2. They will ask you when your last day of work will be for your retirement. You can only start to collect your pension on the first of any given month. For example, if you wish to retire August 1, 2025, your last day of work would be July 31, 2025. If the last day of the month falls on a Saturday or Sunday that is fine. Put in the last day of the month as your last day of work.
3. If Fidelity wants to assign you someone to help you with your pension, I would recommend that you say "No, thank you". This seems to muddy the waters and will cause delays in my opinion.
4. Local 201 is here to help. HR at GE Lynn can also help you. Feel free to call or text me directly with any pension-related questions. 781-215-3974.



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Health & Safety Notes

By CARMEN DEANGELIS
Local 201 Health & Safety Director

Workers Memorial Day

This year Local 201 supported three members of our safety team to attend Workers Memorial Day, an important event that Local 201 has attended long before I was involved in the safety program. It's always been important to invite Safety Committee members that have never had the experience before because when it's over they are reminded why we do what we do while taking away memories from the speakers that go up in front of the State House to remind us that an unsafe workplace incident took the life of someone close to them.

The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) collaborated with the AFL-CIO to create the annual report this year "Dying for Work: Loss of Life and Limb in Massachusetts Workplaces. The report highlighted the fatal injuries by sector/industry. As in years past construction and excavation continues to be a high-risk activity claiming 18 lives, an occupation that many from other countries have historically used to support their families, some of those especially in the residential field may not feel comfortable speaking up when it comes to workplace safety.

Regardless of immigration status, workers have a right to a safe workplace free of discrimination, payment for hours worked, workers compensation when injured on the job, getting paid at least minimum wage, paid sick time, the right to organize, and the

ability to submit claims to government agencies when your employer doesn't follow the law.

Firefighters lost eight workers according to the report and this is consistent with years past as they suffer immediate and long-term exposure dangers. Health Care, Transportation, Manufacturing, Sales, Food and Accommodation, Agriculture, Education, Real Estate, Public Administration and others, accounted for between 1 and 4 deaths. Beyond the numbers each one of these deaths means everything they worked and dreamed about gets put on hold, and those they leave behind must struggle in every way to continue.

At an event like Workers Memorial Day, we mourn the lives lost and are expected to rededicate ourselves to continue the unfinished fight for a safe workplace. Along with the families and friends of those who lost their lives, union leaders, politicians, community leaders, and people who care showed up in support. Thanks to those that represented Local 201 and to friends I often see at this event including workplace safety leaders, Elise Pechter and Nancy Lessin, for volunteering their knowledge and experience for Local 201 when we updated our workers compensation guide last year along with two brilliant students, Sunnie and Maya.



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

By DEREK WHITE
EAP Director

Mental Health Awareness Month

May brings more than just flowers and warmer weather, it also shines a spotlight on something that affects millions of people around the world: mental health. Each year, May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to remind us how important it is to care for our mental well-being and to help reduce the stigma that often surrounds mental health issues. Mental Health Awareness Month started in the United States in 1949, thanks to Mental Health America (MHA) and other organizations. What began as a national campaign has now grown into a global movement, with countries around the world taking part in raising awareness throughout the month of May.

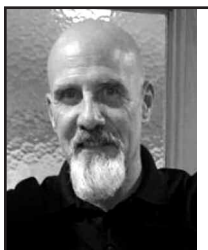
Mental Health Awareness Month is not only for enabling conversations surrounding mental health, but also empowers action. It encourages people to:

- Take care of their own mental health
- Reach out for help if they need it
- Support friends, family, and others who may be struggling

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Taking care of our minds is a big part of staying healthy overall.

As we deal with the ups and downs of daily life, this month is a chance to focus on mental health, speak up, break the silence, and stop the stigma. It's also a time to show kindness to others and to ourselves. Mental Health Awareness Month is symbolized by a green ribbon which I have available if anyone would like one.

Employees covered under the GE health insurance plan have access to five no-cost counseling visits. If you would like to use this benefit, go to liveandworkwell.com and register or call 1-866-272-6007. You can also browse the site for wellbeing benefits and other resources using the **access code: GEA**. I am always available to support and help connect anyone with any resources you may need. I can meet with you in person at a time and location of your choice. I can be reached at any time at 339-338-2508. Laura O'Neal the Optum on-site dedicated workplace consultant is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP). Laura's office is located at the in plant Medical Center and her on-site hours are Monday 6:30am-1:30pm, Tuesday 11:30am-5:30pm, and Friday 6:30am-1:30pm. Laura can be reached at 763-330-4942. **All communication is strictly confidential.**



LPS/M&E Report

By JOHN LEIGHTON
Crafts Executive Board

Last week IUE members from all the locals that will be involved in negotiations for our new Contract came to Lynn to help us kick off negotiations with our Practice Picket. We met at the Hall and had dinner. Each member spoke a little about themselves, time on the job, their work life as a GE employee, the important role of the Union and how crucial Solidarity is as we go through these negotiations.

After hearing these Brothers and Sisters speak I can proudly state that every Local is ready, willing and looking forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with us and

fighting for the best contract possible.

Contract negotiations begin June 1. Our Officers will join the Bargaining Team and members of the International in Columbus Ohio and remain there throughout the negotiation process. During this time our Captains, Board Members and Stewards will relay updates as we receive them. Please remember rumors can start to fly during contract time. If you didn't hear it directly from a Captain, Steward or Board Members it's probably not true.

In Solidarity,
John



VP's Corner

By CHRIS MOODY

Vice-President/Recording Secretary

Hello Brothers and Sisters!!!

Warm weather is finally here, despite evading us for an extended period of time this year. I would say that I hope everyone has some big plans for the summer but there is one order of business we need to take care of as a union first. By the time this article hits the floor we will be just weeks away from sending off Local 201 President Adam Kaszynski and Local 201 Business Agent Jeff Cruz to National Negotiations. The local and the membership have been applying pressure to the Company and working on strengthening the tools available to us as a union.

LOBBY DAY

This past Monday, 4/28/25, a good-sized group of members and retirees went to the state house to lobby for state senate bill S.1319 and state house bill H.2168. These bills would allow striking workers to receive unemployment insurance after 30 days on strike. Our biggest tool is our ability to withhold labor when a company refuses to bargain in good faith. The current tactic that all companies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have is the ability to wait us out. They're all collecting stock options and fat bonuses while we walk the line. These bills would change that. It al-

lows us to holdout for as long as we need to.

Let's be clear though, the goal is to never strike, the goal is to obtain a fair contract. It's when the Company refuses to propose such a contract that we are forced to take drastic measures. I am beyond happy to report that we were able to get a few reps and senators to co-sponsor the bills and while not everyone made the decision to co-sponsor on the spot, nobody openly opposed it. Our members from both GE and Veolia, current and retired, did an excellent job in speaking of the importance of these bills, and made sure their voices were heard in each and every meeting. Great job to all that attended! While there is still plenty of work left to be done on this front, the groundwork has been laid.

May Day

It was a busy week last week as we also celebrated May Day (International Workers Day) on 5/1/25. We should all be proud of our union as the turnout was amazing! We held our practice picket and heard from speakers from all the other GE Locals as well as some local politicians speaking on our behalf and standing with us. Our experiences are the same, no matter where your plant is located. GE as a company is consis-

tent in all the wrong ways. That's why we have events such as May Day, not only to honor the sacrifices of the union members before us, but to put companies on notice that the fight still continues.

We will not backdown and we will continue to stand up for what is deserved. Now as much as ever we have to stand together and the results of May Day should prove that we are willing to do just that. The energy, the camaraderie and the cohesiveness was on full display as hundreds of us marched on that picket line! After closing out the picket line and speeches some of us made our way to the Lynn Commons to listen to some speakers from community groups and to take part in a march through the city. It's a beautiful thing when a full community can come together to fight for the rights of all. Those community groups have our backs, and us theirs.

Although May Day and Lobby Day have passed, it is imperative that we all continue to apply pressure. Not only at GE, but at all of our bargaining units. Contract time should not be the only time we stand together; it should not be the only time that members in their shops use their voice. The fight against major corporations cannot and will not slow down. Looking at all the strikes in the last couple years, Labor has had enough of the concessions, enough worrying about bills and enough worrying about trying to give our families a good life. So, as I stated already, a strike is never the goal. The focus is always to walk away with a fair contract without members having to experience the financial pain of a strike. However, make no mistakes about it. STRIKES WORK!

State House Lobby Day 2025



Employee Assistance Program Support

For more information please call the Employee Assistance Team Local 201/GE Working Together. Located at the Medical Center and IUE CWA Local 201 Union Hall.

Local 201: Derek White 781-584-7641
Optum EAP: Laura O'Neal 763-330-4942

All calls are strictly confidential.





AS THE ROTOR TURNS

By BOBBY ELDRIDGE

LAT&O/Logistics
Executive Board

PQS/PBS

Pension Qualification Service (PQS) is used to determine eligibility for pension benefits. Each year that you are credited with 1000 hours worked, you will be credited with one-year PQS.

PQS continues during periods you are absent due to sick leave and lack of work if you don't break service (usually after one year but prior to 1991, workers without continuity of service also lost service for periods of absence over two weeks).

PQS is credited for military time.

Working overtime may help you reach 1000 hours quicker, but in no case will you be credited with any more than one-year PQS in a calendar year.

Pension Benefit Service (PBS) Is used to calculate the amount of some of your pension benefits. In simplified terms, it is equivalent to your full and partial years of service while you participate in the GE pension plan.

PBS continues during periods you are absent due to sick leave and lack of work as long as you don't break service (usually after one year but prior to 1991, workers without continuity of service also lost service for periods of absence over two weeks.)

PBS is credited for military time

When won't you receive PQS or PBS Service:

Some strikes (loss of 3 months and 8 days).

Individuals did not participate in the plan, didn't sign up or dropped out.

Averaged less than 35 scheduled hours per week.

Employees did not buy back PBS when offered.

As stated above, workers without continuity of service, prior to 1991, lost service credits for periods of absence over two weeks.

If you plan on retirement the Union recommends a two-month grace period to complete all paperwork to ensure the date you want to go is on time. The days of retiring in a week are no more. The Company has contracted with Fidelity Investments to manage the pension collection process. Unfortunately they are not up to speed yet. If you don't bring the proper paperwork or want to retire at the last minute expect a delay. If you have any questions, please call the Union Hall.

Hope to see you around the shop.

Bobby

Business Agent's article continued from page 12

- 2nd shift increase from \$2.00 to \$2.50
- 3rd shift increase from \$2.25 to \$2.75
- Wages: 4% increase 5/1/2025, 3.5% increase 5/1/2026, and 4% increase 5/1/2027
- Certifications:
 - 1% base pay increase for all hours worked for employees with CMV certifications.
 - 1.5% base pay increase for all hours worked per each hoisting license an employee holds. 2A, 3A, and D1 Forklift certification (4.5%)

The Company is still updating the contract language in preparation for the Union to review. Contract language is EXTREMELY CONSEQUENTIAL, so the Bargaining Committee needs to review it in detail to make sure that it is presenting the agreed upon tentative agreement. After the TA draft is reviewed by the Bargaining Committee, we will hold an information session at the Union Hall to answer any questions, and in subsequent days, hold a ratification vote.

I want to close up by thanking all the members of our Bargaining Committee, Fred, Cory, and Chris. You all did excellent at representing the interest of your fellow coworkers and showing the Company what you are all made off.

ABG Report

It has been a rough couple of months with Avis. The unexpected departure of UR's Paul Quinn threw a wrench into the progress we have been making towards dealing with the continuous violations of OT, third party Vendors, attendance policy, and bargaining unit work. This was largely achieved by the push and the information we began receiving from the floor along with the vital details needed to prove these continuous issues. In the absence of UR, City Manager Keary Riggie has

become more available to resolve these issues. During this time, we have made these ongoing issues clear to the Company, and they have made a clear commitment to preventing their continuation.

Almost immediately after taking on this role it became evident that there is a disconnect between upper and lower management. Upper management is under the impression that their front-line managers are professional and diligent in all aspects. However, as you all have made clear, their top priority will always be their own performance. They will walk all over their employees if necessary to achieve their managerial goals, and do not care about the contract as long as they are able to get their work done. This needs to stop. But it can only stop if the members raise the flag. **The union needs to know of any infraction as soon as it happens. These are just two of the ongoing issues that we need to hear about, each and every time:**

- Shuttlers being asked to do Service agent work, and vice versa
- OT being offered minutes (or even after) the OT is supposed to start.

If this happens let your manager know its wrong, and let a steward know. There is no reason why we should be accepting this as the norm.

As always please reach out to our Chief Steward Samantha Sanchez if you have any questions or if you want to report these issues.

ABG Leave Procedure

Step 1 – Alert Manager of dates to be missed.

Step 2 – Call UNUM (866-779-1054) Follow any directions / provide requested paperwork. UNUM will alert you of approved dates.

Step 3 – Apply for paid leave from the state – www.paidleave.mass.gov

President's article continued from page 12

wage for working a job here at GE Aerospace"

"Aetna and Sedgwick, your fired!"

"10% Night Shift Differential on Day 1, not after 5 years!"

Why We Celebrate International Worker's Day

May Day is Workers Day across the globe, it used to be widely observed in the United States and commemorates the earliest days of the workers movement in the USA, when hundreds of thousands of Chicago workers striking for the eight hour day and better pay were met with violence by the authorities and goons hired by the city's wealthy (May Day 1888).

Chicago's May Day martyrs and their struggle became a rallying cry across working America and across the globe and is celebrated to this very day as a day dedicated to

working class solidarity. US born and foreign-born workers across ethnic and gender lines united to march for workers' rights and immediate economic improvements in their daily lives. Some of the key leaders were German Americans, other immigrants, and the couple of Albert Parsons, an American of English descent, and his partner, Lucy Parsons, a former slave of African and Native American descent - remind us that the workers struggle against exploitation has always been based on forging unity across ethnic and gender and regional lines.

May Day has been continuously observed in Lynn, MA - one of the centers of the rising workers movement in the 19th and 20th century. A tradition which continues, as our struggles endure.



Business Agent's Column

By JEFFERSON CRUZ RUALES
Business Agent

GE Report

Contract 2025 Bargaining; We have dates!

Bargaining is scheduled to commence on Monday June 2nd. President Kaszynski and I will be traveling out June 1st on a one-way ticket to Columbus Ohio. We will bargain indefinitely until we reach a TA, the Company passes a "Last and Final Offer", or we reach certain crossroads that would have the Committee return to the locals and prepare for the next steps. Our contract is currently set to expire on June 22, that gives us only roughly 4 weeks to bargain. On page 1 you will see the picket schedule and strike certification form. Familiarize yourself with these documents as they may become increasingly relevant as contract expiration nears.

While we are away bargaining, communication with the Local and the membership will continue through our mobilization structure. Your Captains and Stewards will be at the frontline for all movement and the point of contact for all information. Flyers, meetings, and actions will be planned and executed to provide the membership with updates and to reinforce the Bargaining Committee's strength at the bargaining table. It is IMPERATIVE that the entire membership remains engaged and flexible, we may not ask for much, but when the call is out to meet somewhere, to pass the word, or to engage in an action, we need MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION. If you see your buddy or your neighbor being hesitant to join in, talk with them and let them know how important it is for ALL of us to push together. When it's time to act, I trust I can count on all of you to have each other's back.

We won't have a sense of the direction of the Company until we are well into bargaining, and we will need to adjust accordingly. What is certain is that our priorities are clear. We know that it is increasingly difficult for our members and their families to get by (let alone thrive and prosper) while working for a company that makes billions with one of the highest earning CEOs in history. We need to improve our conditions, and this is our platform to achieve that. I hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming days as we ramp up our mobilization in preparation for our departure, your energy and support is greatly appreciated.

Veolia Report

As you all are well aware, the Union and the Company have reached a very strong tentative agreement. The membership's top priorities were well fought for and largely achieved. Here are the highlights.

April 28, 2025

A Tentative Agreement was reached between the Bargaining Committee and the Company at our last meeting on April 25, 2025, here are the highlights.

- Duration of the Contract: Three Year Contract. May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2028
- Tool Allowance: Increase from \$100 to **\$200**
- Hours of work: Increase from 2 to **7 days'** notice for schedule changes.
- Benefits: Memorializing additional company benefits within the contract (Jury Duty, Parental Leave, Support for Caregivers, and Volunteer Day). And guaranteed bargaining over any future changes.
- Sick Leave: 56 Hours of sick time frontloaded for ALL effective January 1, 2026.
 - Less than five years' service increases from 40hrs to 56.
 - More than five years' service increases from 48hrs to 56.
- Pager Premium: Increase from \$200 to \$250.
- Training Outside Regular Schedule: 3 hours pay at 1.5X hourly rate **GUARANTEED**.
- Shift Premium: \$0.50 increase to off shift premiums effective January 1, 2026.

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President's Column

By ADAM KASZYNSKI
President

continued from page 1

sites have shrunk significantly due to these three factors.

Lynn 20,000- 1,100
Schenectady 40,000- 85
Madisonville 1,000- 365
Strother 900 to 500
3.3% of the peak of our workforce remains.

GE has benefitted millions of dollars from American tax dollars in military contracts and is taking away our potential for our future by not allowing us to work new products.

It's time to get our work back, it's time to secure our future.

No Filter: Hear from GE Members on Contract 2025 in Their Own Words

Below is a sampling of what 201 members at GE wrote in the comment section of the Contract 2025 Survey:

"We need more money and more days off. The days of a 25% wage increase being a "good deal" are over. Boeing and Textron should show us that"

"Are we going to be like Boeing employees next contract (i.e, strike, pay raise...)"

"Bring back pensions now is the time to do it. We need RAISES. The cost of living is ridiculous, and we are struggling. All of us. Everyone deserves a raise and cost of living increases. Not one person. Everyone. WE are the Union. The membership of all the locals make up this union."

"We need more money my wife and I work and can't afford food half the time. We have been talking about me getting a second job just to keep up with bills and food. The medical bills are also killing us too. Please try and get us more money."

"I am willing to fight to keep a good living for generations to come"

"In contract negotiations I would like to see focus on securing competitive wage increases with cost-of-living adjustments, affordable healthcare with expanded coverage, and stronger retirement benefits. Prioritize job security protections against layoffs and automation, and advocate for predictable scheduling, better work-life balance, and increased PTO. Additionally, push for health and safety improvements, career development opportunities, and profit-sharing bonuses, all while ensuring that employer contributions to healthcare and pensions keep pace with rising costs."

"I want more pay and more vacation time. It's so overwhelming to be at a job every day that doesn't appreciate you."

"I'd love to see some kind of language in regard to reinstating pensions for people that started after 2012. Maybe to incentivize people to stay at the Company they could have an amount of time you need to fully vest into the pension"

"Bring back the Double Bubble!"

"1. Need to get Juneteenth as a holiday 2. Need to modify 1.6 hour max on vacation time. 3. Need to lose Sedgwick for Mass paid family leave and register through state website. 4 need major wage increases"

"I would like to see a change in vacation time, that gap 5 to 15years is crazy. I just want a fair contract for all parties."

"COLA language is essential going forward for me to even consider a YES vote. No exceptions. No excuses."

"(Sedgwick) FMLA process was a pain. I gave up and used vacation days."

"As an A&P mechanic watching the pay skyrocket at the airlines make me question my future with GE and also the ability to hire qualified mechanics going forward. Money isn't everything but with costs rising everywhere it is a major factor."

"Eliminate 6 year market based wage tier system, bring back farmed out work so we have more job opportunities and pay the appropriate

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